

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2007 CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG/BUNDESRAT EXCHANGE

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, since 1983, the U.S. Congress and the German Bundestag and Bundesrat have conducted an annual exchange program for staff members from both countries. The program gives professional staff the opportunity to observe and learn about each other's political institutions and interact on issues of mutual interest.

A staff delegation from the U.S. Congress will be selected to visit Germany from May 23 to June 1 of this year. During this 10 day exchange, the delegation will attend meetings with Bundestag/Bundesrat members, Bundestag and Bundesrat party staff members, and representatives of numerous political, business, academic, and media agencies. Participants also will be hosted by a Bundestag member during a district visit.

A comparable delegation of German staff members will visit the United States for 10 days July 12–20. They will attend similar meetings here in Washington and visit the districts of Members of Congress. The U.S. delegation is expected to facilitate these meetings.

The Congress-Bundestag/Bundesrat Exchange is highly regarded in Germany and the United States, and is one of several exchange programs sponsored by public and private institutions in the United States and Germany to foster better understanding of the politics and policies of both countries. This exchange is funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

The U.S. delegation should consist of experienced and accomplished Hill staff who can contribute to the success of the exchange on both sides of the Atlantic. The Bundestag reciprocates by sending senior staff professionals to the United States.

Applicants should have a demonstrable interest in events in Europe. Applicants need not be working in the field of foreign affairs, although such a background can be helpful. The composite U.S. delegation should exhibit a range of expertise in issues of mutual concern to the United States and Germany such as, but not limited to, trade, security, the environment, economic development, health care, and other social policy issues. This year's delegation should be familiar with transatlantic relations within the context of recent world events.

In addition, U.S. participants are expected to help plan and implement the program for the Bundestag/Bundesrat staff members when they visit the United States. Participants are expected to assist in planning topical meetings in Washington, and are encouraged to host

one or two staffers in their Member's district in July, or to arrange for such a visit to another Member's district.

Participants are selected by a committee composed of personnel from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State and past participants of the exchange.

Members of the House and Senate who would like a member of their staff to apply for participation in this year's program should direct them to submit a résumé and cover letter in which they state their qualifications, the contributions they can make to a successful program and some assurances of their ability to participate during the time stated.

Applications may be sent to the Office of Interparliamentary Affairs, HB–28, the Capitol, by 5 p.m. on Friday, March 14, 2008.

A TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH H. (JIM)
ZARZYCKI

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Joseph H. "Jim" Zarzycki, director of the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center at Aberdeen Proving Grounds. Graduating with honors in chemical engineering in 1969 from the New Jersey Institute of Technology, Joseph Zarzycki went on to earn a master's degree in industrial engineering from Texas A&M University in 1970. He is also a graduate of the Defense Systems Management College's Program Management Course and holds a master's degree in public administration from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government. He is a licensed professional engineer in Maryland and New Jersey.

Jim has over 25 years of leadership in public and private organizations dealing with toxic and hazardous materials. He has worked in the Army's Chemical Demilitarization and Installation Program, as well as the Army Chemical Systems Laboratory, now the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center. Throughout most of the 1990s, Jim worked in the environmental consulting industry, directing the functions of waste management locations across the nation.

In 1998, Jim returned to government service as the director of the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center at Aberdeen Proving Grounds. There he has directed the efforts of over 1,600 scientists, engineers, and technicians working in the areas of chemical and biological defense, smoke obscurants, and non-lethal weapons technologies. He also manages technology development efforts in support of several important national security programs including chemical demilitarization, the chemical and biological warfare treaties, and chemical and biological counterterrorism.

Jim is a recipient of the 2002 Presidential Rank meritorious Executive Award. In both

2002 and 2007 he was named Federal Laboratory Consortium Technology Transfer Department of Defense Director of the Year. Most recently, his organization, the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, was selected as the Army Laboratory of the Year in 2007.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Joseph H. "Jim" Zarzycki. His legacy as a brilliant engineer will be forever remembered in his service to our domestic agencies as well as our armed forces. It is with great pride that I congratulate Jim Zarzycki on his exemplary career in chemical and biological defense.

EXAMINATION OF VOTE ON H.
RES. 847

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, one of the reasons the United States of America has remained for more than two centuries a model to the world is the constitutional promise of the first amendment: "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

I did not vote against H. Res. 847, but I strongly believe it should never have been brought to the floor of the House of Representatives. It is appropriate for Congress to address moral and ethical issues of societal import, but not issues of religious import. Congress should not legislate on whether Jesus is peoples' "savior" or whether Christmas symbolizes "God's redemption and mercy." Despite some good phrases, H. Res. 847 was inappropriate legislation that deserved neither a "yes" nor a "no." I voted present, as I have occasionally done for legislation that I believe should never have been brought forward.

Those of us who practice our deeply held religious beliefs are able to worship more freely than anywhere else in the world because of this important protection that our founders installed so wisely. My Christian religious faith not only supports my entire life and dedication to service; it also leads me often to speak out on religious tolerance in the world.

Some people have noted that earlier this year I had voted to honor the Muslim observance of Ramadan and then recently refused to vote to honor Christmas. That is not really true. In October I voted in favor of a resolution that at the time of the Muslim Ramadan expressed "friendship" and "respect" for Muslims and commended Muslims who reject "hatred" and "bigotry" and who present Islam as supporting "tolerance and full civil and political rights." That was a message of societal and political import, not religious, and different in tone and content from the recent resolution celebrating Christmas.

That is the way I see it, and when it comes to votes on the floor of the House, I call them as I see them. I trust my constituents will see

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.